Purchase of 50 seater aircraft

627. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the purchase of a short hawl 50 seater aircraft is under consideration of Indian Airlines;

(b) whether such an aircraft will be able to serve far flung stations in Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and the North-eastern States; and

(c) if so, the reasons for delaying this purchase and by when will it be finalized?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Indian Airlines is considering the acquisition of six 50 seater turboprop aircraft for operation in the North-East sector and other important tourist and business destinations. These turboprop 50 seater aircraft will be able to operate to airfields with runway length of approximately 4000 feet. The Board of Indian Airlines had constituted an Evaluation/Negotiation Committee comprising Members of the Board to examine the proposals from manufacturers of three short-listed aircraft viz. ATR 42-500, Dash 8-300 and Saab 2000.

Daily flights on Vizag-Hyderabad and Vizag-Chennai-Calcutta Sector

628. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to operate daily flight on Vizag-Hyderabad and Vizag-Chennai-Calcutta sector in view of public demand;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (c) Commercial and operational constraints at present do not permit operation of daily services on these routes. Alliance Air, a wholly owned subsidiary of Indian Airlines is, however, already operating three flights per week on Vizag/Channai/Vizag sector, six flights per week on Hyderabad/Vizag/Hyderabad sector and three flights per week on Vizag/Calcutta/Vizag route.

Upgradation of Visakhapatnam Airport

629. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government for upgrading the Visakhapatnam Airport;

(b) whether Government have since initiated any action to create night landing facilities;

(c) details of the action taken to extend the runway to enable A-320 aircraft to land at Visakhapatnam airport;

(d) whether the land is offered by the Visakhapatnam Port Trust, required for upgradation of the airport;

(e) if so, the details thereof?

(f) whether the land is taken over to start the work; and

(g) if so, by when the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (c) Visakhapatnam Airport belongs to Indian Navy and Airports Authority of India maintains only a civil enclave. Airports Authority of India has completed technical study for the construction of a new runway at the existing airport and the report has been sent to the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

(d) to (g) Do not arise.

Disinvestment plan for Pawan Hans

630. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the disinvestment commission has recommended to disinvest Pawan